



AUGUST TIP SAVINGS: Over \$100/YR
Improved Health & Safety : Priceless

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

GREENER CHOICES REDUCE HAZARDS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Every day products may invite harmful chemicals into your home or garden.

The 'dog days' of August mean one thing... it's hot, it's been hot, and the house has been closed up for a couple of months already, and likely will be closed up for a couple more. How's your indoor air quality? Studies show that indoor air pollution can be up to 10 times worse than outdoor air pollution. This can occur from obvious sources such as smoke, mold, or other toxins, but may also be occurring due to fumes from paints, carpeting or furnishings. What might surprise you the most are pollutants caused by conventional cleaning products. They may be leaving your appliances gleaming and your home smelling like freshly squeezed lemons, but they can also leave behind harmful chemical residues or fumes causing a variety of health effects.

**The next Household
Hazardous Waste Event is
Saturday, October 2.**

Cleaning products aren't the only things we purchase as consumers that can pollute our homes and the environment. Shift to the garage and the landscape (and why not add the medicine cabinet) and you end up with a chemistry lab of compounds on your shelves. If you do not use up all of the product you purchased, you can't just throw it in the garbage where it may pollute soil, groundwater, and rivers. The City provides Household Hazardous Waste collection events four times a year, and some of the products, like latex paint, can be recycled. However, many products are ultimately destined for special hazardous waste landfills, or incineration, both at very high costs.

Thankfully, nontoxic alternatives exist for many of the everyday products needed around the home. Not only can switching to safer alternatives have a positive impact for you and your family, it will also benefit the environment, and should send a message to manufacturers.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **To learn more**, attend our August 14 *Living Green Workshop* when we will be presenting ***Greener Choices to Reduce Hazards in the Household***. Call (480) 644-4400 or visit www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.
- ☐ **Find books on green housekeeping**, green living, and consuming wisely at City of Mesa Library, visit www.mesalibrary.org/research/links/living-green.aspx or call (480) 644-3306 for a copy.
- ☐ **Request a copy of our free brochure *Natural Recipes for Home & Garden*** from the Solid Waste Management Department. It provides tips to make your home and garden environmentally friendly. Call (480) 644-2222.

TIPS

- Read labels and look for plant-based ingredients, natural enzymes and essential oils. If you must purchase a hazardous product, buy only the amount you need.
- Follow label instructions on the product. Using an excessive amount will only result in greater danger to you and the environment.
- Other outlets collect oil, batteries, CFLs, tires and electronics. Visit www.mesaaz.gov/waste/HHW_Options.aspx.
- Look up product health and safety information at the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services site at www.hpd.nlm.nih.gov. Find proper disposal and other great recycling ideas at www.Earth911.com.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving money by avoiding the purchase of unnecessary or hazardous products. Do your part for *building a sustainable community* by voting with your shopping dollars. Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green